

April 9, 2010

To Whom It May Concern:

I respectfully request that the Applicant Review Panel give full and serious consideration to the application of James R. Matthews, applicant number 33224, to serve on the California Citizens' Redistricting Commission. I have worked with Mr. Matthews for approximately four years at the California Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) and believe that he possesses the qualities and skills that would enable him to be an asset to the Commission.

For the past two years, Mr. Matthews has provided significant support to the work that the section which I oversee at DHCS does in setting reimbursement rates for long term care providers participating in the California Medicaid program, Medi-Cal. The support that Mr. Matthews has provided is of a highly technical and complex nature and typically involves advanced applications of various software, such as SAS and Excel. Much of the work that Mr. Matthews is regularly assigned involves the gathering and standardization of immense quantities of data and information for comparison from diverse sources.

For example, Mr. Matthews is currently completing for the Medi-Cal long term care rates what is known as an Upper Payment Limit Compliance Demonstration (UPLCD), which is required of the states by the federal government to provide reasonable assurance that the Medicaid rates do not exceed in the aggregate provider costs or the rates paid under the Medicare program for equivalent services. Mr. Matthews has, in essence, been a "trail blazer" in this regard, since California has not previously been required to submit a UPLCD. Another example of Mr. Matthews work at DHCS includes a multi-variate regression analysis to detect causal variables for labor and non-labor skilled nursing facility operating cost components. I have always been impressed by the fact that Mr. Matthews always refrains from making a recommendation until a full analysis can be completed, regardless of the pressure for a "best guess" or the amount of time and difficulty involved in completing a full analysis.

I also believe that Mr. Matthews' knowledge of California history would be of value in his capacity as a member of the Commission. Our numerous discussions regarding California history have demonstrated that he has a strong understanding of California's geographic diversity. I also know that his work for the Southern Pacific Railroad contributed significantly to this understanding.

I am confident that California's redistricting effort would benefit from Mr. Matthew's serving on the Commission. I thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Grant Gassman